

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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13 June 1986

The Honorable William Proxmire
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Resources,
Competitiveness, and Security Economics
Joint Economic Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

In your letter of 23 May, you asked that annual data on Soviet weapons production be made available to the Joint Economic Committee on an unclassified basis.

As we indicated in our March testimony, the Intelligence Community has completed the first round of review of these production estimates and the results have been published. Another round covering additional categories of production is now under way. From now on, the figures on Soviet weapons production used in intelligence reports will reflect the results of this Community process.

I believe that the Community's year-to-year production estimates should not be declassified at levels more disaggregated than we provided in our testimony this year. They represent the latest Community views based on an exhaustive review of all-source intelligence. To declassify them at the level of detail that you request would unnecessarily provide the Soviet Union with information on the accuracy of our intelligence and the areas of our uncertainty. In addition, by comparing year-to-year changes in the estimates, the Soviets could isolate areas in which our intelligence capabilities have improved or have been degraded by Soviet denial programs.

We, of course, will continue to provide our estimates on a classified basis to your Committee. I hope that this arrangement will meet your requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. J. Casey".

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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